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Barnsley College

Case study:

Barnsley College integrates Aptem and EBS



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Barnsley College are an award winning apprenticeship provider. Their apprentices have won a range of awards including the Apprentice of the Year at the Association of Colleges (AoC) Student of the Year awards. They offer over 70 apprenticeship pathways in a wide range of sectors.

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Grade 1 Ofsted rated Barnsley College procured Aptem in April 2022 because they wanted to offer learners, employers and tutors a streamlined experience, logging into as few systems as possible.

Learners were previously interacting with four systems that didn't speak to each other, placing great strain on the administration team, and facilitating large margin for error when content was manually duplicated several times over. Employers also had two systems to manage. Now both sets of stakeholders work entirely within Aptem.

Barnsley College

The impact of implementing Aptem

Using Aptem has enabled Barnsley College to have oversight across their entire apprenticeship offering, resulting in:

- An accelerated process to onboard learners
- A reduction in ILR errors
- The admin team has been reduced and moved onto other projects. Four people are now managing 1800 learners.
- Data transparency enabling all stakeholders to see meaningful information such as learner progress, withdrawals, breaks in learning and achievement rates.
- Improved data access which means the Business Development team is able to get data into the system quicker and trainers can onboard leaners.

The inbuilt dashboards are very useful. We use the progress dashboards to monitor whether learners are going to achieve their apprenticeship in a compliant manner, ensuring no clawbacks, no risk of breaks in learning or withdrawal, and by their planned end date.

Amy Dickens, Business Analyst, Barnsley college





A key part of the Barnsley College implementation was the ability to integrate Aptem with EBS

"EBS has an open API and our workflow goes one way currently – from Aptem into EBS" explains Amy Dickens, Business Analyst. EBS is Barnsley College's main learner system, allowing learners to do everything they need to do, from registration, to door passes and exam entries.

"Our integration enables learners to enrol through Aptem, and once activated their details are automatically transferred into EBS," said Amy. *"It's more than a simple integration because we use EBS workflows to send emails, enable modules and sign documents."*

The integration took one month to build. *"More time was spent on the business process before the integration work,"* said Amy. *"It's worth being very controlled and specific about the type of information you want to pass through into EBS from Aptem."* Work on this continues so that Barnsley College can take advantage of continuously evolving features and greater levels of automation. *"Enrolment was the first thing we explored with the integration, and we built from there."*

Barnsley has helpful advice for others considering similar integrations:

Map your processes upfront in detail. It's the little things that can trip you up – like managing breaks in learning so they don't appear as an absence on the register.

Manage internal expectations around what's technically possible. There is limited understanding of APIs and their complexity, so keep your stakeholders updated.

Give your team focus time. EBS provides documentation and examples around APIs, and you are supported by your Aptem Implementation Consultant, Aptem Technical Consultant, specific Aptem integration documentation, and the Aptem OData dictionary.

Ensure you have a second Aptem test tenant to test the integration. This is much better than testing with the live tenant. However you will need some programme data in your first tenant before you clone it.



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If you are interested in integrating Aptem with EBS please speak to your Customer Success Manager if you are a current customer, or email **enquiries@aptem.co.uk** if you are not.

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